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NOTE

From: Austrian Regional Chair of the Dublin Group (Co-Chair: Hungary)
To: Dublin Group
Subject: Regional report on Western Balkans

Summary

Albania:

- The number of drug seizures and arrests increased, however, drug related crimes remained a serious problem in the year 2014.
- The fight against drugs remains one of the main priorities of the Albanian Law Enforcement Agencies.
- Albania continuously implements the National Strategy Against Drugs 2012-2016 which is based on the four pillars of strategic cooperation, supply, demand and harm reduction.
- Two massive and successful police operations took place in the area of Lazarat and Dukagjin.

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- The evaluation and report of the Sarajevo Mini Dublin group was determined by the fact that the official “Annual Report on the Situations of Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for year 2014” is not yet finalized.
- There is no official aggregated data on the last year.
- The number of drugs users is estimated close to the number in 2013, while the number of crimes related to drug abuse increased.

- The national strategy on supervision over narcotic drugs, prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs for the period 2009-2013 is still in place, a new strategy and plan of action needs to be drafted.

Kosovo:

- The overall objectives of the Directorate's of Trafficking in Narcotics Investigation (DTNI) work plan include the implementation of objectives set by the National Strategy against Drugs, investigations, cooperation and prevention.
- In the course of 2014, the DTNI has achieved positive results as regards drug related investigations and operations.
- However, new DTNI internal needs comprise, amongst other, the establishment of new units, more staff and enhanced logistical equipment.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

- The report by the Skopje Mini Dublin Group highlights successful activities in the fight against drug trafficking.
- The Implementation of the new national drug strategy 2015-2020 has started.

Montenegro:

- Smuggling and consumption of modified marihuana ("Skunk") still dominates the drug related offences.
- Even though the country of origin is Albania, different Montenegrin groups are involved in the smuggling of "Skunk".
- Three successful police operations were performed at the national level.

Serbia:

- The situation in Serbia remained broadly unchanged compared to the previous report.
- The apprehension of big quantities of heroin on the border between Serbia and Croatia showed that the Balkan route continued to be an important smuggling route for narcotics, but also gave evidence on the successful fight against the smugglers.
- Operational cooperation with the member countries of the Mini Dublin group remained excellent and on a high level.

1. General situation in the country

- In 2014 drug related crimes remained a serious problem for Albania. The country continued to be both a country of origin (for cannabis and its derivatives) and a transit route (for hard drugs). In 2014, however, the number of drug seizures and arrests increased dramatically. In the vicinity of the Southern village of Lazarat, Cannabis had been cultivated at a large scale until the summer of 2014, when massive and successful police operations were conducted to eliminate these activities.
- The fight against drugs remains one of the main priorities of the Albanian Law Enforcement Agencies. The government of Edi Rama, taking up their duties in September 2013, has repeatedly confirmed their commitment to engaging in intensive efforts to strike against organized crime and trafficking in narcotics.
- The National Strategy Against Drugs 2012–2016, which fully complies with common EU-standards, was approved by the Council of Ministers in June 2012. In 2013 the government adopted a new Strategy and Action Plan against Organized Crime, which is currently being implemented. In 2014 the establishment of the National Investigation Bureau, a specialized unit to tackle corruption and organized crime, was initiated.
- Continuing the trend of 2013, Albania achieved tangible results fighting illegal drugs in 2014. Both the volume of drug seizures and arrests remained high. The quantity of marijuana seized in 2014 (101,7 tons) exceeded the total quantity seized during the previous 9 years (96 tons). Cannabis seeds seized in 2014 made up a total of 530 thousand, thus exceeding the total quantity seized in the preceding 6 years. Furthermore, 530.177 marijuana plants were destroyed in Albania last year.
- In 2014, the government continued restructuring the police. Modernization of police equipment also continued. Training and equipment of the Albanian Border Police further improved which had a positive impact on border control and the number of seizures.

- Albania continued to receive assistance from several countries to enhance its counter-narcotics capacities. The US, Italy and Greece were among the main contributing countries. A number of joint international operations were conducted, mostly in cooperation with Italy.
- The government continued to run several drug prevention and awareness programs. The project “Youth Education and Awareness and Reducing Drug Demand and other Harmful Substances”, supported by ICITAP and the US Embassy in Tirana continued, having a great impact on pupils, teachers, parents, media and police officers. The project was presented to all 188 public elementary schools reaching over 26 400 6th graders.

1.1. Legislation and coordination

The Council of Ministers approved the National Strategy Against Drugs 2012-2016 with the Council of Ministers Decision No 403, dated 20.06.2012 (*Official Gazette No 85 dated 24.07.2012, page 4299*). The Strategy ensures a balanced approach to drug supply and demand reduction aspects. The Strategy, which is fully in line with the EU Strategy for Drugs 2005-2012 and the Action Plan for Drugs 2009-2012 between EU and Western Balkan Countries, is based on four main pillars: strategic coordination, supply reduction, demand reduction, harm reduction.

The government of Edi Rama, taking up their duties in September 2013, adopted a new Strategy and Action Plan against Organized Crime in 2013. The government announced that it shall employ all the adequate human, technical and financial resources to guarantee a full and effective collaboration with the regional and international partners in the fight against terrorism and international crime. To this end, the government announced in 2014 the establishment of the National Investigation Bureau, a specialized unit to fight, *inter alia*, organized crime in relation to trafficking in narcotics.

In March 2013, an Action Plan for Prevention and Fight against Cultivation of Narcotic Plants was approved by the Minister of the Interior. Under the new government, a new Program of Activities of the Ministry of Interior was adopted for the years 2013-2017. The document foresees that criminal activity in the field of drugs will continue inside and outside the country due to market demand and high profits for criminal organizations. It emphasizes the need of better absorbed and analyzed information, collaboration with responsibility and professionalism within the police structures, as well as increasing the efficiency of the investigation of criminal groups.

In March 2013, the so-called speed boat moratorium, a law which prevented Albanian citizens from possessing speed boats of a certain size, came to an end. So far no significant increase of interest in registering speed boats previously prevented by the moratorium has been detected. The Adriatic and Ionian Sea area, however, remained an important route for narcotics smuggling from Albania to Italy.

1.2. Strengthening of capacities

Inter-institutional cooperation and coordination

A common platform for the execution of proactive investigations has been developed in the framework of implementation of the cooperation agreement between the Prosecutor General, the Ministry of Interior and the State Intelligence Service (SHISH). However, the SHISH and its head, appointed during the term of the previous government, have been widely criticized by the recent government for their lack of cooperation with the police.

Fight against narcotic plants cultivation

Monitoring the terrain from the air has continued to be the most important measure to identify areas of cannabis cultivation. Flights were conducted by the Italian Guardia di Finanza. According to the Albanian police, by September 2014, 89 percent of the country's territory was searched. In 2014, 39 flights were conducted which discovered a total of 798 plots with cannabis cultivation.

1.3. Police activities against trafficking of drugs

The country continued to be both a country of origin (for cannabis and its derivatives) and a transit route (for hard drugs). According to the Albanian Police, in 2014 the production and trafficking of marijuana was the number one problem. Cannabis had been cultivated in various parts of the country, mostly in remote, hidden places. In the vicinity of the Southern Albanian village of Lazarat, however, cannabis had been cultivated at large scale on public and private properties throughout the whole territory of the village. The annual production of marijuana in Lazarat had been estimated up to 800 metric tons (the total quantity of seized marijuana in 2013 was 20,7 tons). A few thousand local people had been working on the plantations and had been involved in harvesting and processing the cannabis. Market-ready marijuana had been trafficked to Western European countries via neighboring countries (mainly Greece and Italy but also Kosovo, FYR of Macedonia and Montenegro).

In 2014, a series of exchanges of mutual accusations of the political powers about alleged involvement of recent and former government officials in organized drug trafficking took place, thus highly politicizing the issue of the fight against drugs. Rumors about drug shipments forwarded from military bases in Albania also emerged. Investigations have started but so far no evidence has been found to prove these allegations.

As for hard drugs, Albania remained a transit country. Local consumption is low; seizures were performed mainly on border crossing points. Seized drug shipments of hard drugs were most probably supposed to be sent to Western European countries via Albanian middlemen.

Statistical tables on offenses and suspects prosecuted, as well as seized quantities of drugs for the year 2014: (source: Albanian government).

Type	No. of cases	Detected	Quantity	Perpetrators	Arrested/detained	On bail	Wanted
Heroin	56	55	63 kg	80	67	9	4
Extasy	1	1		1	1		
Cocaine	37	35	23 kg	46	43	3	0
Marijuana	903	808	101,7 mt	1061	599	350	112
Hashish	2	1	24 kg 450 gr	2	0	2	0
Cannabis seeds	4	3	1 744.7 gr	4	4	0	0
Aceton	0	0	550 l	0	0	0	0
Hashish Oil	1	1	11 154.4 gr	1	0	0	1
Methadone	1	1	17 gr	1	0	1	
Total	1008	906		1203	714	372	117

Statistical tables on offenses and suspects prosecuted, as well as seized quantities of drugs for the year 2013: (source: Albanian government)

Type	No. of cases	Detected	Quantity	Perpetrators	Arrested/detained	On bail	Wanted
Heroin	95	95	47 kg 325 gr	113	102	9	2
Methadone	2	2	137.7 gr	2	1	1	0
Phentermine	1	1	1.2 gr	1	0	1	0
Cocaine	42	41	16 kg 104.6 gr	59	49	10	0
Marijuana	949	888	20672 kg 916.9 gr	1137	634	455	48
Hashish	6	6	32 kg 440.2 gr	9	8	0	1
Hashish Oil	1	1	359 ml	1	1	0	0
Cannabis seeds	6	6	700 gr	6	5	1	0
Papaver somniferum seeds	1	1	5 kg 288.9 gr	1	1	0	0
Mixers	2	2	1 kg 742.8 gr	2	2	0	0
Total	1105	1043		1331	803	477	51

The quantity of seized heroin increased from a total of 47 kg in 2013 to 63 kg in 2014. The quantity of seized cocaine was 23kg (compared to 16kg in 2013). The number of cases in heroin and cocaine trafficking did not show a significant change compared with the year before (56 last year and 37 the year before).

The quantity of seized marihuana was significantly higher than in the year before (101,7 metric tons vs. 21 metric tons) to which seizures of considerable amounts, after the successful operations in Lazarat and other regions in the country, contributed. The same applies to cannabis seeds (1745 g vs. 700 g).

Already by the end of September 2014 the number of criminal cases exceeded the total number of 2013. Almost 90 percent of the cases and the perpetrators were marihuana-related crimes.

During the year 2014:

- 111 operations by implementing special investigation techniques were concluded (65 such operations were concluded in 2013).
- 49 criminal groups conducting trafficking and distribution of narcotics substances were discovered with 149 persons arrested (in 2013, 33 criminals groups with 170 persons were discovered).
- 50 operations implementing special investigation techniques were concluded.

51 operations using various forms of international cooperation were successfully concluded (2 with Italy, 1 with Greece, 2 with the US, 2 with Kosovo, 1 with Austria), which resulted in 60 persons arrested in Albania (during 2013, 33 international operations were concluded with 49 people prosecuted in Albania).

Criminal Code Article	No. Criminal Offences			No. Perpetrators		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Article 283 (manufacturing, selling narcotics products)	850	948	908	1071	1134	1033
Article 283/a (Trafficking of narcotics products)	106	153	98	166	193	168
Article 285 (Possession of chemical substances and equipment)	6	2	n.a.	8	2	n.a.
Article 285/a (facilitating the drug's use)	0	2	1	0	2	1
Total	962	1105	1008	1245	1331	1203

The following data reflect the results in 2014:

2 214 parcels with cannabis destroyed countrywide

798 parcels identified with the help of INTERFORZA

530 177 cannabis plants destroyed

101.7 tons of marihuana seized

63 kg heroin seized

23 kg cocaine seized

Market value of marihuana seized: 6.4 billion EUR

Total value of all narcotics seized: 7 billion EUR

According to the Albanian police, the amount of cannabis sativa destroyed in this one-year period exceeded the total amount destroyed during the period 2008-2013. Similarly, the amount of marihuana seized in this one-year period exceeded the total of the period 2005-2013.

From the neighboring countries Italy reported to have seized 7.3 metric tons of marihuana and 0.5 kg of cocaine originating from Albania (January-August 2014).

1.4 Police operations against drugs production

In 2013, cannabis cultivation in the vicinity of the Southern Albanian village of Lazarat was continuing at a large scale. Although no official data on the quantity of the cultivated cannabis exists, international experts estimated the yearly production up to 800 metric tons (note: 21 tons of marihuana was seized in 2013 in Albania) on 319 hectares. Local sources reported 4-5000 people working on a daily basis on the plantations. The former Albanian governments had failed to counter these activities.

The current Albanian government confirmed its commitment to take effective measures to eliminate the problem. Significant quantities of marihuana originating from Lazarat were seized during police operations already in 2013. In 2014, massive and successful operations were conducted to eliminate the extensive cannabis cultivation in Lazarat and in the Dukagjin area in Northern Albania. In the village of Lazarat alone, a total of 133 thousand cannabis plants were discovered and destroyed, as well as 71 metric tons of marijuana, 4.395 kg of cannabis seeds, 16.8 liters of hashish oil and 5 kg of heroin. Five laboratories for drug processing were also discovered and a significant number of weapons, ammunition and explosives were confiscated (424 firearms, including heavy machine guns, grenades and anti-tank missiles).

Similar police operations took place in other regions of the country as well. In five villages of the Dukagjin area 296 plots were identified, whereas a total of 134 thousand cannabis plants were destroyed.

After finishing these operations, investigations and prosecutions have started against a significant number of perpetrators with the main objective to eliminate criminal networks of drug trafficking.

1.5. Police prevention activities

In March 2014 Action Plan No. 301 “On the prevention and suppression of the criminal activity of cultivation of narcotic plants during 2014” was approved by the Director General of the State Police. This action plan contained the following measures:

First stage:

- Increasing the awareness of the inhabitants of these areas to stop cultivating drugs and on their non-incrimination
- Increasing the awareness among young people, especially pupils
- Increasing the awareness of state administration and locally elected officials

Second stage:

- Operational intervention by State Police structures for destroying narcotic plants

In 2011, the Tirana Regional Police in collaboration with the Education Directorate and with the support of ICITAP and New Jersey National Guard, US Embassy in Tirana, started to implement the project “Youth Education and Awareness and Reducing Drug Demand and Other Harmful Substances”.

This project has attracted special interest and had a great impact on pupils, teachers, parents, media and police officers alike. It produced very good results concerning awareness raising and prevention and is considered a direct implementation of the community policing philosophy. These activities are contributing to the increase of public trust in the police.

The Drug Awareness project continued to grow in 2014 since its inception 4 years ago. It was presented in all 188 public elementary schools in the nation and reached over 26,400 6th graders. For the second year in a row the project sponsored a poster contest for these students with the winners in each school being rewarded with a four day camp whose theme is drug awareness and having fun. This year a camp for all the regions was opened. The project is now concentrating on informing students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco but may develop another phase that would concentrate on the domestic abuse phenomenon. All the teacher/police teaching teams have gotten their training from trainers who have observed similar programs in the US.

2. Tirana Mini-Dublin Group's recommendations for 2015

- Continued efforts should be undertaken in the field of prevention, for example by increasing the impact of existing anti-drug campaigns.
- The two successful large police operations in Lazarat and in Dukagjin were not presented well enough to the public. The Albanian police needs better PR, also to create more awareness among the population.
- There were not enough prosecutors present during the Lazarat operation. The lack of communication and cooperation between police and state prosecutors is a general problem in Albania which makes the follow-up of police operations difficult and opaque.
- Security of seized drugs' storage and effective destruction procedures need to be ensured and arrested persons need to be properly indicted and convicted.
- A social plan for the population of Lazarat in the aftermath of the destruction of the cannabis plantations is needed.
- Albania's efforts and the assistance of the International Community have led to progress in the fight against drugs. However, continued efforts and support, including training activities and updated technical equipment, are necessary.
- Corruption and organized crime remain a major concern in Albania; a comprehensive overall strategic approach towards tackling these issues needs to be established.
- Besides investigating people involved in drug production, effective measures should be taken to investigate and prosecute the leaders of criminal networks dealing with drug production and trafficking. This process needs to be monitored by the international community.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Report by the Sarajevo Mini-Dublin Group for the year 2014

April 2015

Following written consultations, the Mini-Dublin Group Sarajevo finalized the attached Country Report with the aim to evaluate the progress achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fight against drugs and drug trafficking since the group's last report in 2014. The consultations were coordinated by the Embassy of Austria. The drafting of the report and the compilation of relevant information was kindly supported by the EU Delegation/EUSR Office and member states.

The evaluation and the report were determined by the fact that the official Annual Report on the Situations of Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for year 2013 is not yet finalized. There is no official aggregated data on the last year. At the Ministry of Security, the competent authority was not in a position to provide them. However their readiness for cooperation and consultation, as soon as the report is published, was fully confirmed and underlined.

I. General Situation in the country (general situation in the host country including production, trafficking and demand related issues)

In general, the situation remains unchanged to the previous reporting period.

Drug trafficking has the biggest share in drug related offences in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This can be mainly attributed to two facts: firstly, profit margins are highest in drug trade; secondly it is the fastest way to make money. BiH citizens are mostly involved in the shipment and storage of drugs. The current deteriorating economic and social situation of BiH might lead to increasing trafficking.

The domestic market for and production of drugs is small. However, there are indications that domestic drug demand slightly increased in 2013, especially for synthetic drugs. This change from a predominantly drug trafficking country to a drug consuming country is of concern not only in BiH, but in the whole region. The only drug produced in BiH is cannabis with increasing indoor cultivation of genetically modified potent strains of the cannabis plant.

BiH's significance for drug smuggling is due to its geographical location on the Balkans route. This route predominantly originates in Albania and goes via Montenegro, through Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia towards Central Europe. On this route mainly cannabis, heroin, opiate products, and increasingly cocaine, are being smuggled. Also, drugs are increasingly being stored in depots in order to secure a continuous supply in Europe.

In general drugs are shipped through Bosnia in two directions. Heroin and cannabis are coming from the East and are shipped to the West whereas synthetic drugs and cocaine are shipped from West to East. BiH is considered to be one of the regional hubs for narcotics shipment. As its neighbours, Bosnia and Herzegovina is affected by trafficking on the Balkan route, linking production sites in Afghanistan via Turkey with the main European markets. One of the sub routes goes through Bulgaria, Romania and FYROM to Kosovo, then through the Serbian and Montenegrin "Sandžak" to BiH, and further on to Croatia and Slovenia. Marijuana is usually transported from Western FYROM, Albania and Kosovo over to Montenegro to southern BiH. It was observed that cocaine traffickers from South-America use ports in some Mediterranean countries, and there are already well-established land routes, partly through BiH and further to Western Europe. Law enforcement authorities confirm that persons from all ethnic groups are involved in the narcotics trade, often collaborating across ethnic lines.

There are no official data available for the year 2014 in drug related issues. As far as statistics are concerned, in general it has to be pointed out that every ministry at the various levels of government has different standards. This stems from the fragmented nature of BiH's law enforcement and security sectors.

The number of the drug users is estimated close to the number in the previous year; there are around 7500 drug users in BiH, the overwhelming majority of them are male. Street prices are considered not to have changed significantly. According to 2010 data, street prices for heroin are between 15 and 25 EUR per gram. One gram of Cannabis costs between 0.5 and 1 EUR whereas skunk (a variety of marijuana) costs between 1.5 and 3 EUR. In the Balkan region, one gram of cocaine costs currently around 50 EUR and methamphetamine or ecstasy around 3 EUR or 4 EUR.

The number of crimes related to drug abuse increased. The number of criminal reports on trafficking and possession of drugs in 2013 decreased to 1480, compared to 1629 in 2012. The number of confirmed indictments decreased from 1184 in 2012 to 1039 in 2013, and the number of convictions decreased from 1072 to 1050. Predominant crimes are possession and enabling use of narcotics. Drugs confiscated are mostly cannabis, heroin or synthetic drugs. A large quantity of drugs seized by order of different courts throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina is still awaiting destruction. The Commission for Drugs Destruction has been reappointed, but has not destructed any drugs during 2014.

To further illustrate the point, in 2014, besides other illegal substances, a total of 256 grams of cocaine, 11 kg cannabis products and 462 grams of amphetamines were seized in Austria from BiH nationals.

1) Legal framework - administrative capacity

Individual law enforcement agencies are showing improved capability to identify and disrupt organized drug trafficking operations. The political will generally exists to disrupt these drug trafficking operations. Further efforts are still needed regarding an effective judicial follow-up as well as to improve joint investigation, coordination and cooperation between the many layers of law enforcement, security and judicial sector actors. Formal coordination and better exchange of intelligence are needed to respond to growing challenges.

The establishment of the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies was a landmark in this regard in 2010. However further political support is needed for its coordinating role to be fully recognized. So far, the Directorate has not had a competence to exercise a coordination role towards other police bodies. Lack of political support to make the Directorate fully operational is a significant problem to be addressed in the future. To ensure increased financial support for the Directorate is vital.

Further support to enhance the Local Risk Analysis Centers (LRACs) within contributing agencies for the improvement of work and effectiveness of the Joint Risk Analysis Centre (JRAC) under the Integrated Border Management Strategy will also potentially improve targeted joint enforcement activity.

A rulebook on safekeeping and destruction of seized narcotic drugs, adopted in 2012, proved helpful and produced positive results. In 2012, the Commission for Drug Destruction destroyed for the first time 1015 kg of marijuana, skunk, heroin, ecstasy and amphetamine. During 2013, the Commission for Drugs Destruction was reappointed, and in December 2013, the Ministry of Security, together with law enforcement agencies and the Commission for Drug Destruction, destroyed 31 tons (31 000 litre) of anhydride acetic acid valued at 100 million EUR. (This amount could have been used for producing ecstasy valued at 250 million EUR.) The whole operation was fully monitored by the members of the Commission. The organized destruction of seized drugs presents a step forward, since the problem had been pending for years, and after the war a large quantity of drugs was stored in different LEAs waiting for destruction. Still, a large quantity seized by different courts awaits its destruction. The Ministry of Security has been engaged in the collection of data on seized drugs and their estimated value.

The Ministry of Security appointed a National Correspondent for cooperation with EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drug Addiction). His work is considered to be useful and essential by BiH. It will remain provisional until approved by the Commission. The Commission has not met for more than three years. The last explanation on the situation refers to certain changes in the government of the RS and thus the composition of the Commission needs to be re-approved. The Ministry of Security produced the Country Overview and National Report on the Drug Situation in BiH.

In the reporting period, the new Law on Prevention and Suppression of Narcotic Drugs had still not been drafted. The Working Group held a meeting in November 2013, however due to differing stances between Ministry of Security and RS Ministry of Interior the work was suspended. The agreement on the creation of the focal point for cooperation with EMCDDA has not yet been reached. The mandate of the Working Group expired in December 2013 and needs to be extended by the Council of Ministers. The majority of the text of the law was drafted and is aligned with the EU *Acquis*.

The lack of a legal basis for state institutions in certain fields, like for the Ministry of Civil Affairs regarding health, makes the work of state institutions difficult as they are dependent on the good will of the entities or of the cantons (within the Federation entity). The request of international institutions for contact partners and data on the state level has proven to be very successful in strengthening state institutions.

The decentralization of the police and judiciary, poses particular challenges to the ability of central institutions of BiH to implement a coherent security policy. In face of these challenges, however, there has been steady progress in reforming and stabilizing the crime fighting system by consolidating state institutions such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Security, Border Police (BP), State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), Intelligence Security Agency (OSA), The Service for Foreigner's Affairs, the Office of the BiH Prosecutor, and the State Court. The Ministry of Security has made a concerted effort in order to encourage and facilitate better cooperation and coordination among those and entity level law enforcement and security institutions. The repeated questioning of the competence and legal basis of the BiH Prosecutor's Office and BiH State Court by RS authorities would, however, undermine previous achievements in making more effective the state level judiciary.

a) Legislation

Currently the following legislation is in place:

- Law on Production and Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs FBiH and RS
- Law on Health Protection FBiH and RS

- Law on Prevention and Suppression of Narcotic Drugs (BiH Official Gazette no. 8-6), which came into effect on February 15, 2006,
- National Strategy on Supervision over Narcotic Drugs, Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2009-2013
- State Action Plan for the Fight against the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2009-2013

BiH has signed and ratified the relevant drug-related UN treaties, such as the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, (1971) and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988).

Furthermore, BiH is party to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2003), its Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and its Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition. BiH is also a party to the UN Convention against Corruption and UN Convention on Rights of the Child.

As already outlined, the new Law on Prevention and Suppression of Drugs has still not been adopted.

b) Institutions - organisation and cooperation

Many BiH institutions are engaged in the fight against drugs, namely the police authorities (entities and cantonal Ministries of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Security of BiH and the Brcko District Police), the Judiciary (Ministries of Justice, prosecutor's offices and courts at all levels - state, entity and cantonal and in Brcko District), the indirect Taxation Authority of BiH (BiH Council of Ministers), the Ministry of Health (on entity and local level) and the entity Ministries of Culture and Education. Non-governmental organizations are engaged as well, both directly and indirectly.

Since the adoption of the Law on the Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in November 2005, the main bodies in charge of the development and implementation of drug policies in BiH as well as on international cooperation in this regard, are the Commission for the Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs formed by the BiH Council of Ministers and the Department for the Prevention of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs in the Ministry of Security.

The Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies is responsible for communication, cooperation and coordination of law enforcement agencies at the State level with other bodies, including the fight against the abuse of narcotic drugs and it is the national contact point for Interpol and Europol. It can still be considered in build-up phase.

The server system for data exchange between ministries and respective police bodies has been implemented at the Directorate for the coordination of police bodies (DPC). The system is fully operational and is functioning, however, certain questions, in particular on the access to different databases, have been revised in the law enforcement community and remain to be solved.

However the Ministry of Security lacks a legal basis to keep the registers on drug related crimes. The new Law on Drugs might solve this.

The Commission represents the political body composed of ministers and deputy ministers which is in charge of coordinating activities of administrative bodies in the implementation of the Strategy and to design political and strategic actions in the field of prevention and suppression of the abuse of drugs.

The Department for Prevention of Abuse of Narcotics at the Ministry of Security is in charge of the systematic gathering of data and monitoring of the phenomena, of collecting and processing data required for preventing and combating illicit drug trafficking and the criminal offences related to the abuse of narcotics.

The Department for Prevention of Abuse of Narcotics at the Ministry of Security also works on international cooperation with other countries in the region and with representatives of the European Union in the domain of security, and monitors the implementation of the Law on the Prevention and Combat of the Abuse of Narcotics. The department performs tasks assigned by the Commission for the Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs which is the main inter-ministerial coordination body in the field of drugs. It also maintains a data base on the import and export of narcotic substances, narcotics and plants from which narcotic drugs and precursor may be obtained, and cooperates with operational police forces in this area.

In order to harmonize activities of the Ministries and of other agencies involved in the implementation of the National Strategy, and for the purpose of its promotion and control of its implementation, the Council of Ministers has established the Commission for the Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs. However, the Commission has not met for more than three years, mostly due to lack of political will. Therefore the strategic guidelines in this area are missing.

In general, police cooperation is still carried out rather on an ad-hoc basis than in a systematic way. Agencies depend on personal relations in a remarkable extent. The deficient systematic and formal exchange of information, in particular of intelligence, is a significant gap for disrupting organized criminal networks, including drug trafficking.

A further goal is to participate in an early warning system regarding trends on the drug market. EMCDDA has been contacted for that. Another aim is to work with TAIEX to increase the credibility of the Ministry of Civil Affairs' recommendations.

II. Short update on the country's anti-drugs strategy

The national strategy on supervision over narcotic drugs, prevention and suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs in BiH for the period 2009-2013 is still in place.

Its key objectives are:

1. Rising awareness through community education, in order to implement a healthy life style and mental health,
2. Combating and preventing further spread of drug abuse,
3. Prevention of drug addiction, death and health damage due to drug abuse,
4. Reduction of damage caused to community by drug abuse,
5. Reducing of drug demand especially among young people,
6. Strengthening of institutional capacity and responsible involvement of the society,
7. Improving legislation and its implementation,
8. Reducing the supply of narcotic drugs,
9. Formation of an independent multi sector office for drugs – Office for the Prevention of Drug Abuse at the state level.

The implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan in RS is coordinated by the RS Commission for Suppression of Narcotics (assisted by the Team for Fight Against Drug Abuse within the Office of the Director of Police), while Brcko District formed a working body for the implementation of the Action Plan. There has been no change in the reporting period concerning the establishment of the designated agency at the FBiH level for the coordination of the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan; there is still no designated body.

A new Strategy and Plan of Action for the period 2014-2018 needs to be drafted. Enhanced cooperation with international and regional institutions and drug demand reduction, poly-drug supply reduction, drug supply reduction and strengthening cooperation with civil society are indicated as major goals for the next period. However, there are political obstacles in drafting the strategy, as the appointment of the Working Group for drafting the Strategy and Action Plan was pending before the Council of Ministers.

Drug prevention is part of the curriculum in schools. In RS it takes place in the 7th grade whereas in FBiH it takes place in the 9th grade. However, it is not standardized and it depends entirely on the teacher's approach to this subject matter.

The preventive legislation in relation to suppression of drug abuse is still the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Abuse of Narcotic Drugs, adopted in 2006. The Law establishes specialized bodies for suppression of drug abuse, contains a list of narcotic drugs, establishes conditions for cultivation of plants from which drugs might be produced, regulates supervision over cultivation of such plants and establishes framework measures for the suppression of drugs abuse. Although the Working Group for drafting the new law commenced its work in 2013, the text of the draft has still not been agreed. So far, the WG produced 70% of the text of the law which has been aligned with the EU Acquis. There is no official agreement between the stakeholders about a designation of the body that would act as a focal point for international cooperation. The experts suggested that the tasks of supervision of activities on implementation of the strategy and coordination of activities in prevention and suppression of drug abuse should be performed by the Commission for Narcotic Drugs, composed of mainly ministers and deputy ministers. The Commission shall be assisted by the Section for Narcotic Drugs of the Ministry of Security and the Sector for Health at the Ministry of Civil Affairs, from their respective competencies. The Commission shall be a national focal point for cooperation with relevant international institutions in this field. However, this solution needs to be re-discussed at the next sessions of the WG.

In BiH there are currently 59 mental health centers that provide outpatient treatment and counselling for drug users. In addition there are eleven specialized addiction treatment centers and two medical drug treatment centers in Banja Luka and Sarajevo. Liquid methadone as well as methadone tablets are used for therapy. There are also several NGOs that operate drop in centers and outreach programmes and some implement needle and syringe programmes. Insufficient financing sets a limit to the possibilities of the medical treatment and rehabilitation. Improvement is needed mostly in the aftercare and rehabilitation; due to the lack of financial sources in several cases the process cannot be finalized in a reassuring way with long lasting results.

III. List of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs

Organized crime networks continue to operate throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and have a negative impact on political structures and the economy. A number of large-scaled operations were nevertheless successfully conducted, thanks to the cooperation amongst different law enforcement agencies. Implementation of the strategy for the fight against organized crime continued. However, lack of adequate resources limits its effectiveness. Legal and institutional obstacles to more systematic use started to be addressed. The Council of Ministers adopted a decision allowing the establishment of a network of police liaison officers in neighboring countries, with Europol and in some EU countries. The aim of this network is to improve international cooperation and exchanges of information on fighting transnational organized crime. Results are weak for the time being.

The fight against drugs is a main component of the overall fight against organized crime and was addressed by the European Commission at the negotiating rounds with BiH authorities for the Stabilization and Association Agreement.

BiH authorities cooperate with other countries and institutions on several levels. Cooperation on state level is carried out by DPC and SIPA both seated at the Ministry for Security. DPC is the national contact for Interpol and Europol. Therefore DPC is the channel for BiH authorities on all levels to Interpol and Europol. SIPA has a liaison officer at SELEC in Bucharest. In contrast to Interpol and Europol this liaison can be contacted by all Bosnian authorities directly. Furthermore there are several regional police cooperation centers for cooperation with Croatia.

In recent years, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia and Croatian border police have taken a number of administrative and institutional measures in order to further enhance the level of border control on the state border with BiH in its entirety. In this way institutional capacity and effectiveness in managing and protecting the longest Union's external border as well as preventing cross-border crime was enhanced.

In addition to that, continuing dialogue and cooperation with competent BiH authorities regarding the changes impacting Bosnia and Herzegovina following Croatia's entry into the EU sought to bring EU standards and practices closer to Bosnia and Herzegovina without having an adverse effect on the flow of people and goods, people-to-people contacts and interest of local communities living in local border areas on both sides of the border.

International cooperation

An improved cooperation in combating drug related crime can be expected not only with the implementation of bilateral agreements, e.g. with Croatia which is not a member of the Police Cooperation Convention for South Eastern Europe (PCCSEE), but also by a full implementation of the PCCSEE itself. PCCSEE is still a new convention and time is needed for its members to use its advantages to a full extent. Some countries from within the Schengen zone have recognized the benefit of this convention and started procedures to join this convention (some already by the end of 2011). This should additionally boost regional cooperation in fighting drug related crime in the near future.

Under the instrument for pre-accession (IPA) the EU has prepared a large project in support of the area of law enforcement, including expert and institutional support to the Office for narcotics, which started in May 2012. Twinning assistance aims to strengthen the capacities and the functions of the Directorate for Coordination of police bodies. The project was finalized in June 2014. Continuation of the project, in a different format and approach, enjoys general support. Drug related issues should remain an essential part of the new project. The European Union also supports the establishment of the system for electronic data exchange between police agencies and prosecutor offices.

Bosnia and Herzegovina reports regularly to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). Cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction is ongoing. The provisional National Correspondent for EMCDDA works in the Ministry of Security. Bosnia and Herzegovina prepared its second annual report on the situation of drugs in BiH.

In October 2014, the BiH Presidency adopted the decision on accession of BiH to the Group for cooperation in fight against drugs abuse and illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs of the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group). The Pompidou Group provides for a multidisciplinary forum where politicians and experts discuss and exchange information on all aspects related to drug abuse. The Group connects EU member states with other European countries, as well as with other states in the Mediterranean region (such as Morocco and Israel). So far, BiH was the only country in the region which was not part of the group. Participation in the Pompidou Group through designated coordinators shall enable BiH to exchange experiences and information with other countries on drug related issues.

A working arrangement between the BiH Ministry of Security and FRONTEX was signed in 2009 related to the implementation of activities in the field of border security. The agreement also envisages information exchange between the BiH Border Police and FRONTEX for the Risk Analysis Unit, cooperation related to further trainings, technical cooperation as well as participation in joint operations on the borderline of BiH and EU Member States.

Since 2007 the Austrian Ministry of the Interior and the Bosnian Ministry of Security have been cooperating in fighting illegal drug trafficking, including advanced investigation techniques. In December 2012, a twinning project led by Austria with the aim to support integrated border management in BiH was completed.

Starting on 1 February 2015, a project funded by the European Commission named “Joint investigations to combat drug trafficking via the virtual market (darknet) within and also into the EU (JICDT-VM-DARKNET)” was launched under Austria’s leadership and with German partnership - BiH was invited and is welcome to participate.

France is also closely following, at a strategic and operational level, BiH activities in the fight against drugs. In 2012, France conducted operational and technical cooperation projects on different topics. At first, a dog training for searching drugs, secondly an action on money laundering from drug traffic, then a visit in the French police directions of the anti-drug offices and finally, a preventive action towards youth for a presentation of different types of drugs will be organized. In April 2013 France organized a seminar with Slovenia on TAIEX funds on undercover police operations. The aim of this meeting was to enable the integration of SIPA UC in the European Common Group of UC. This should be a new start for anti-drug operations. Furthermore Pole of Belgrade (a strategic and interministerial French diplomatic group) will study and publish in the next months a report on the different cannabis routes in the Balkans. Cannabis from the Balkans (i.e. Albania) is very well appreciated in Western Europe and in concurrency with Moroccan cannabis.

During 2013, Italy continued to offer several trainings in the field of special investigation techniques and fight of drug trafficking on the web with the support of the Central Directorate for Antidrug Services. Moreover, Italian and Europol antidrug experts, in the framework of the EU project EMPACT Western Balkans, organized a specific workshop with SIPA aimed at exchanging best practices in relation to anti-drug investigations.

The Netherlands Police Agency (KLPD) supports BiH Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies by launching a two-year twinning project (beginning in March 2012) between the Netherlands Police Agency (KLPD) and the Directorate, funded by the European Union (EU). The project focuses on the role of the Directorate in operational international police cooperation, its capacities to collect, share, manage and analyze security information.

Slovenia has signed a bilateral agreement on police cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006, but there were no activities connected with drug related issues carried out on the basis of the agreement during the reporting period. As outlined above, a seminar on TAIEX funds on undercover police operations was carried out in cooperation with France.

The UK government is working closely with the Ministry of Security and other stakeholders on the implementation of the BiH Strategy and Action Plan for drug control, suppression and prevention.

The U.S. Government's bilateral law enforcement assistance programs, through the U.S. Department of Justice ICITAP (the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program) and OPDAT (Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training) programs, continue to emphasize task force training, improved cooperation between law enforcement agencies and prosecutors and other measures against organized crime, including narcotics trafficking. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) office in Rome maintains liaison with its counterparts in Bosnian state - and entity - level law enforcement organizations. The DEA has also sponsored specific narcotic interdiction training courses in Bosnia. The U.S. embassy also provides other forms of justice and law enforcement training in BiH.

Croatia plays a particular role as regards bilateral cooperation, since the Croatian border is Bosnia-Herzegovina's longest border with one neighbor country. Prior to the accession to the EU, Croatia aligned the existing bilateral agreements with Bosnia and Herzegovina with the relevant EU *acquis* and standards. This year Croatia is starting the Schengen evaluation process. Croatia has concluded bilateral agreements regulating cross-border police co-operation with Bosnia and Herzegovina: the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Co-operation in State Border Control and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Police Co-operation in the Suppression of Cross-Border Crime (in effect since 2012).

In April 2014 the 11th meeting of the PC SEE Committee of Ministers and the 10th DCAF annual ministerial review conference were held in Opatija. On the margins of the event, a Border Police Protocol on establishing a joint contact centre on the border crossing point at Nova Sela (RH) – Bijača (BiH) was signed.

The implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Co-operation in State Border Control and its protocols is regularly monitored through a joint coordinating body. Following the appointment of the new director of the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in September 2014 a working meeting of the two countries' border police representatives was held with a view to discussing and evaluating cross-border police cooperation activities.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in State Border Control, in 2014 a total of 1895 mixed border patrol missions were undertaken, out of which 952 on the territory of Croatia and 943 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Croatia will continue to actively support strengthening the capacities of law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina by participating, alongside with Slovenia and Austria, in a twinning project "**Strengthening Law Enforcement in Bosnia and Herzegovina**" led by Austria.

The agreement between the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina on "Cooperation in the Fight against Crime, in Particular Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Organized Crime" entered into force on 1 August 2014.

IV. PRIORITIZED IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

A constant and thorough monitoring of the possible impact of the accession of Croatia to the EU will continue, especially because with Croatia's entry into the EU and its start of the Schengen evaluation process, the 1000 kilometers long EU external border with Bosnia and Herzegovina is monitored in accordance with EU standards.

There are indications that domestic drug demand in BiH is growing. This implies that crimes associated with obtaining drugs becomes relative to drug trafficking a bigger issue for domestic police. Increasing social and economic problems represent growing additional risk.

Police operations confirm the complementarity of drug and arms trafficking. In most drug seizures weapons were seized as well. They highlight situations where continued and improved cross border intelligence sharing and cooperation are required to maximise the effect, as well as close monitoring to assess the market impacts are needed. It will be a challenge for BiH police to identify these new phenomena. There is a clear need for targeted assistance in this issue.

The solidification and strengthening of the multi-level law enforcement system, with an emphasis on the state-level law enforcement and judicial institutions remains the key objective. The ongoing development of joint institutional and operational capacity and capability is being supported by targeted assistance through the EU instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA). The Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies plays an important role in this regards.

Law enforcement system and institutions lack sufficient staff, equipment and training.

The strong will by BiH to enhance regional cooperation and cooperation with relevant European bodies and institutions deserves full support. Training in the field, sharing of best practices and establishment of direct personal contacts are the major objectives of the BiH side.

Bilateral assistance shall remain focused on increasing the functionality of existing agencies and on deepening operational partnership including by cooperation agreements. There is still a critical need for improvement of inter- and intra-agency cooperation within law enforcement and for effective judicial follow-up, both within BiH and in the wider region.

V. MINI-DUBLIN GROUP ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

The globalization of crime and its multidimensional forms create a complex and challenging security environment that demands a professional response by the relevant authorities in order to address the growing drug-related threats more efficiently. International cooperation is an essential factor in tackling these challenges.

The urgent need for BiH at this point continues to be the adoption of the new Law on the Prevention and Suppression of the Abuse of Narcotic Drugs. For improving and strengthening the fight against drug traffic and organized crime it will be necessary to further harmonize the criminal codes between entity and state level. This will be the best way for having common offences and legal norms between entities and state level.

Another decisive factor is strengthening the state level institutions further, such as the Ministry of Security, the Directorate for coordination of Police Bodies, SIPA, and the Border Police. In order to increase their functionality and efficiency these institutions need to be properly staffed and equipped to contribute to a joint capacity and capability of the law enforcement and judicial branch as a whole. With regard to the Border Police, further efforts are needed to implement an integrated border management.

Though some progress has been made on operational cooperation between the many law enforcement agencies within BiH in the fight against organized crime, including sharing of intelligence and joint action, formal coordination and exchange of information, particularly of intelligence, remain weak. The need for full implementation of the National Intelligence Model, to oblige bodies to share information and intelligence, would go a long way to solving the communication and cooperation issues.

The trend of withholding support to state level institutions, especially by the Republika Srpska (one of the two constituting entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina,) has continued. Whereas this does not affect the urgency of identified priorities and needs assessed as such, it may influence the pace and feasibility of activities aimed at strengthening state level institutions and calls for creative approaches.

It is to be seen whether the elections held in October 2014 will affect the legislation and implementation procedures in any way. All efforts should be exerted in order not to waste too much time.

For conducting more elaborated analyses and concluding with more specific assessment of needs, the Annual Report on the Situation of Drugs in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the year 2014 Annual Report Group is of outstanding importance. The Group will continue its evaluation at a later stage when the Annual Report is available and it will summarise its assessment in the follow-up report of 2015. The Group might also consider consulting representatives of the relevant bodies.

Kosovo¹

Report by the Pristina Mini-Dublin Group for the year 2014

Directorate of Trafficking in Narcotics Investigation

January 2015

PART 1: Introduction

Purpose of the report

This Strategic Assessment is produced with the aim to present the Directorate's of Trafficking in Narcotics Investigation (DTNI) achievements for 2014, identify priorities concerning drug related criminal offenses and identify new trends occurring in Kosovo.

The objective is to present a clear picture of current, ongoing and long term police priorities. The report serves to implement a Control Strategy which will determine a periodical process of tasking and commitments.

Vision

The vision of DTNI is to build a healthy society in Kosovo, without the negative impact of the use and trafficking of narcotic substances.

¹ *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence;*

Mission

The mission of this directorate is to determine objectives and activities in order to prevent and combat use and trafficking of drugs and coordinate inter-institutional and international actions in order to achieve these priorities.

Organizational Structure



PART 2: Objectives and implementation during 2014

DTNI is a specialized directorate within the Division against Organized Crime, established with a purpose to implement laws and other acts foreseen by Kosovo legislation in the field of preventing, investigating and detecting criminal offenses related to narcotic substances (drugs) and arresting the persons who commit those offenses.

Overall objectives foreseen in the DTNI work plan are:

- Implementation of objectives foreseen by the National Strategy against Drugs.
- Investigate and combat criminal groups that engage in trafficking in narcotics
- Inter-institutional and international cooperation
- Managing evidence and confiscated assets
- Cooperation and prevention

During 2014, the Directorate of Trafficking in Narcotics Investigation was engaged in prevention activities, investigation, detection, arrests, seizures and criminal proceedings.

An analysis of the achievements in 2014 was conducted and compared to those made in the previous year. The implementation of the activities foreseen in the National Strategy and Action Plan as well as the challenges which DTNI is facing were assessed.

Operational plans, suspects arrested, seizures, search operations and other activities conducted demonstrate the positive results and achievements of the DTNI during 2014 in investigating narcotic related cases.

The conducted activities (meetings, round tables, lectures in schools) by the Unit for Prevention and Cooperation, contributed in cooperation with other mechanisms foreseen in the National Strategy (2012-2017) to the successful implementation of the objectives set in the National Strategy, which focuses on prevention and reduction of offer and supply.

During 2014 DTNI also presented its successful performance in the field of strategic – operative cooperation with domestic and international mechanisms.

PART 3: FUTURE PROSPECTS AND RISK

Global trends, Kosovo's geographical position, migration of the population within Kosovo and abroad, poverty, unemployment, poor economy and lack of preventive educational and health programs contributed to Kosovo being a place for misuse and abuse of drugs and being used as a transit country for trafficking of drugs.

In addition, the below mentioned factors are obstacles to the implementation of the objectives set by DTNI.

- Kosovo's lack of membership in regional and international organizations (SECI Centre, EUROPOL, INTERPOL)
- Inability of Kosovo to contribute reports in the field of Organized Crime
- Border control
- Illegal telecommunication operators are one factor that negatively influence achieving the priorities set by DTNI.

DTNI internal needs

- Establishing the unit in Gjakova region:

Following the establishment of this unit, it is necessary to establish the Regional DTNI unit.

- Increase personnel:

DTNI has shown willingness to increase the recruitment of human resources for newly established units and train the new officers in the field of drugs. Moreover, we need continued training for officers in order to identify new drugs.

- Logistical equipment (vehicles, computers, other necessary equipment):

DTNI needs new vehicles because of amortization of vehicles in use and other up to date equipment (GPS, video cameras, kits to identify new drugs, covert radios etc).

PART 4: ANALYSIS RELATED TO DRUGS

During 2014, in total 139 trafficking cases were registered, 588 cases of possession and 58 cases of cultivation of narcotics. Based on these data, the increase of the cases of possession of narcotic substances shows that Kosovo is not only a transit country for narcotic substances, but also a place for distribution and consumption.

The use of narcotic substances is a major social and health problem in the whole world- Naturally, it also has a negative impact on Kosovo's society, since the direct and indirect effects from this phenomenon cause multiple damages for users, their family and society in general and furthermore endanger state security.

Kosovo still doesn't have a database which can assess the number of users or other data regarding abuse of narcotic substances and the situation is worrisome. Everyday an increased presence of narcotic substances is noticeable.

By conducting a general analysis and drawing on existing statistics produced by DTNI, we realized that the situation of illegal trafficking, possession and use of narcotic drugs in Kosovo is worrisome.

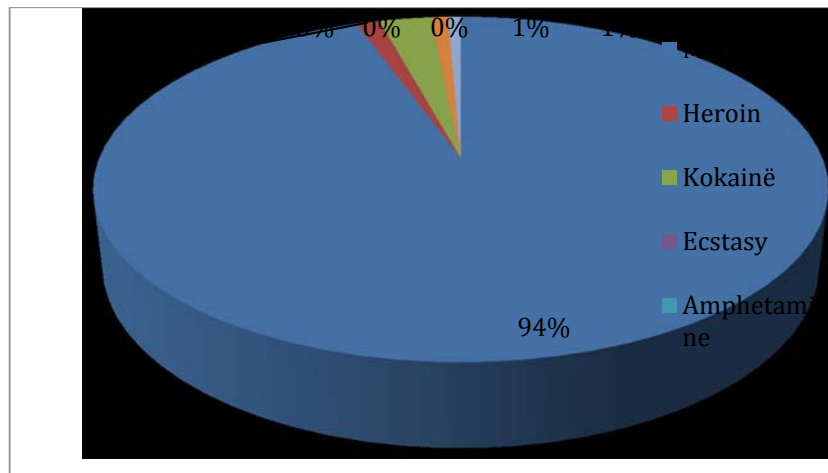
Based on information received from the Department of Judicial Medicine, during 2014 forensics confirmed 10 cases of death as a consequence of an overdose.

This detrimental activity for the Kosovar society, which involves youngsters and teenagers, including pupils, requires the mobilization of all competent institutions.

The use of drugs increases all types of criminal activity, a phenomenon that is growing on a daily basis in alarming proportions.

4.1. Seizures

Seizures within Kosovo during 2014, divided according to the regions and type of drug. Assessment about the impact of seizures in the market and availability.



This chart illustrate, that, compared to other drugs, the presence of marihuana is quite high. Therefore we must identify transport routes and suspected locations for the use and distribution of this substance. Due to the low price on the market, if compared to other drugs, additional attention should be paid to vicinities of schools, in order to prevent the use by pupils and youths in general.

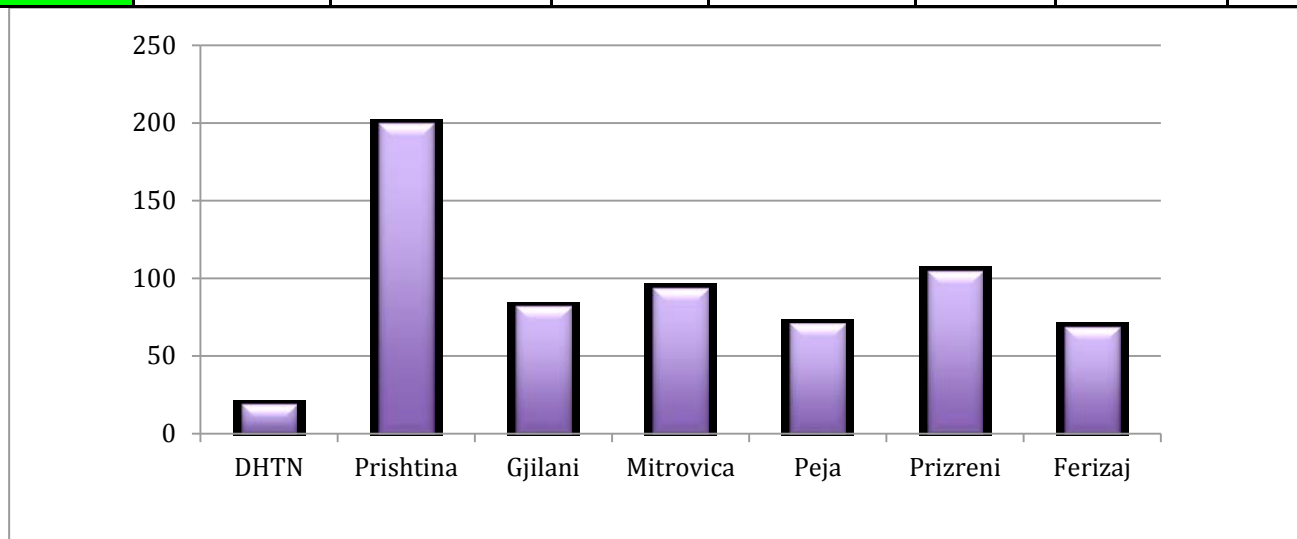
Type of drug	Seized amount (Gram/ Number)	Number of seizures	Percentage of all seizures	Approximate market value (minimal)
Marihuana	737kg 913.3 gr	360	94%	516.600€
Heroin	9 kg 606.34 gr	21	1%	163.320€
Cocaine	21kg 104.6 gr	19	3%	1.260.000€
Ecstasy	52	2	>1%	520€
Cultivation	6930 plants	28	1%	
Cannabis seeds	5165	6	1%	

Drug prices in the domestic market:

Heroin ----- 1 kg 17.000 – 22.000 €
Heroin ----- 0.6 g 20 - 25 €
Cocaine ----- 1kg 60.000 – 80.000 €
Cocaine ----- 0.6 g 70 – 90 €
Marihuana ----- 1Kg 600 – 900 €
Marihuana ----- 5 g 20 – 25 €

Based on available information we haven't noticed any change in prices since last year, depending on the season.

SEIZURES BY REGIONS							
	DTNI	PRISHTINA	GJILANI	MITROVICA	PEJA	PRIZRENI	FERIZAJ
heroin	0	471.4 gr	69.4	357.5	8140.8	16.64	550.6
marihuana	187kg721gr	188kg230.8gr	144806.9	64426	134726	13558.68	4443
cocaine	20kg798.72	201.86gr	4	25	51.9	0.29	22.8
ecstasy	0	0	0	0	0	3	49
Cannabis plants	50	87	24	3815	2793	97	64
farak.	0	5090	5	0	65	5	0
Emulsifiers	5kg 235 gr precursors 261 L acids	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	6	46	0	17.2	6	0



The chart illustrates that Prishtina Region, compared with other regions, has a larger number of seizures of narcotics,, especially marihuana.

Cultivation of the cannabis plants is evident in Mitrovica and Peja region, however there were reported cases of cultivation in other regions as shown in the chart.

Ecstasy was detected in Ferizaj Region, while in the Peja region 20kg798.72 of cocaine was seized..

4.2. Types of Drugs

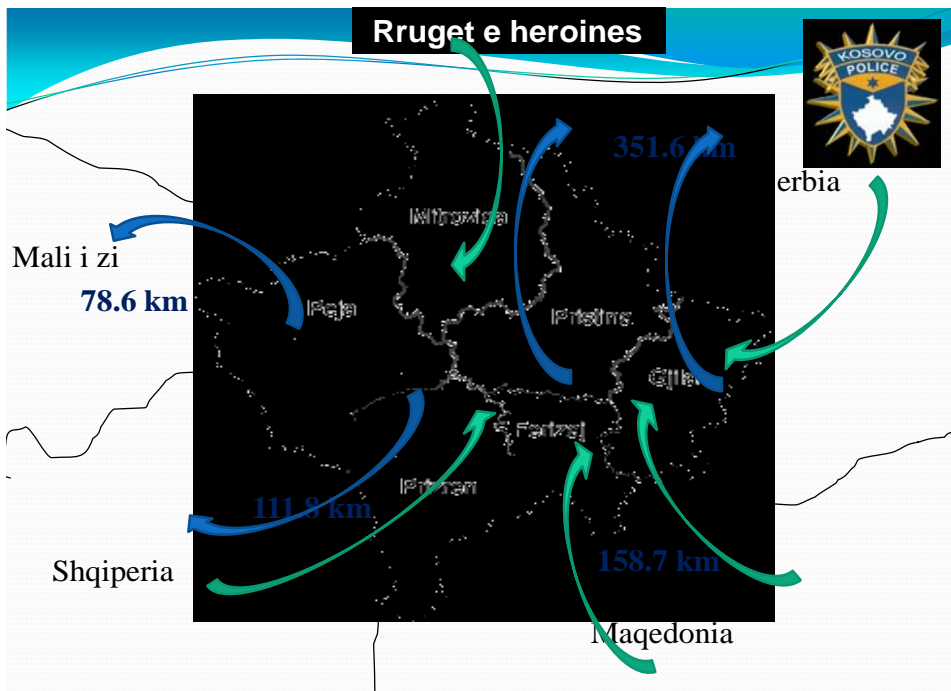
Drugs and narcotics arrive in Kosovo from different sides and countries, depending on the type of narcotic substance. In recent years, we have noticed an increased number of cannabis plantations. There were 58 registered cases of cultivation and 6930 plants of cannabis sativa were seized.. This is the result of police activities in the places where previously cultivation was widespread.

Compared with the previous year we noticed an increased number of naturally grown plants. From all the cases registered that concern cultivation of narcotic substances, 19 cases were registered as naturally grown cannabis (3724 plants), whilst 39 cases were registered as cultivation of plants by suspects (3206 plants). Plants were mainly cultivated in house yards, flower pots and to a small extent in crop fields for personal use.

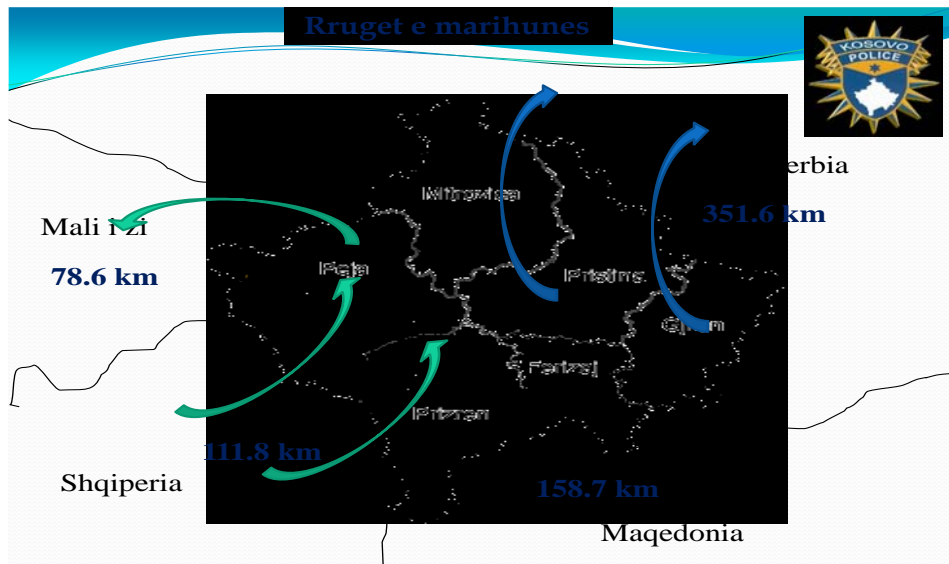
Investigations and seizures of narcotic substances in Kosovo illustrate that marihuana is most common, since it is cheaper than other drugs. However, it is disturbing that, based on the statistics, this drug is mostly consumed by youngsters aged 19-22 and 22-30. Consumption of other drugs like heroin, cocaine and ecstasy are less evident in Kosovo.

4.3. Trafficking Routes

One of the routes used by drug traffickers is known as the “Balkan Route”. Transport of heroin through Kosovo via the Balkan Route decreased during this year, due to difficulties the traffickers face as regards travel (visa regime, low level export, employment of relevant mechanisms in order to combat drug trafficking, increased cooperation with citizens etc) in Kosovo.



Marihuana trafficking routes and trends have not changed. However, in the course of this year we noticed an increased number of cases concerning possession and trafficking of Marihuana. Marihuana enters Kosovo through Albania. A part of it remains in Kosovo and the rest is transported through Serbia to Western European Countries.



4.4. Means of Transport / Smuggling

In the course of this year 29 vehicles used to transport narcotic substances were seized. The suspects used secret spaces within the vehicle to conceal the narcotic substances during the transport.

4.5. Criminal Gangs

In the course of this year, in total 19 criminal gangs with 70 persons involved were disrupted. The group comprised different nationalities as listed below:

- 11 persons –Albania
- 3 persons –Macedonia
- 1 person –USA
- 1 person –Colombia
- 1 person –Montenegro
- 53 persons - Republic of Kosovo

Apart from the disruption of these criminal gangs and the seizure of suspected narcotic substances of different types, 28 illegally-held weapons and 472 live rounds of different calibres were seized during this operation. Hence, those criminal gangs may pose a threat to the police during different police operations. These groups usually consist of up to 8 person.

PART 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identifying suspected locations where narcotics are being consumed and distributed.
- Parents should be included in prevention and information programs about the use of drugs and should monitor their children's use of internet and social networks.
- Strengthening the cooperation with the media in promoting the prevention of the use of drugs and focusing primarily on youngsters aged 14-18..
- Establishing adequate institutions for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and expansion of existing programs in other regions.
- Establishing a database for the identification of drug users.
- Developing and implementing operational plans for the purpose of combating criminal gangs.
- Implementing operational plans at BCP's.

Giving a relatively clear picture about the drug situation in Kosovo through proper research and presentation, which could have a positive effect on the commitment of relevant organizations in preventing and eliminating the use of inadequate reports.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Report by the Skopje Mini-Dublin Group for the year 2014

Spring 2015

I. General situation in the host country

1. EU Progress Report

The European Commission (EC) forwarded a formal letter to the Secretariat for European Affairs, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which informed that the 11th meeting of the Subcommittee on Justice, Freedom and Security, which was scheduled 26-27 March 2015 in Brussels, was postponed.

Additionally, in order to provide consistent information to the EC on the areas covered by the Subcommittee, the written material will be submitted by Authorities of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the EC.

2. Drug Supply Reduction

Activities for the fight against drug trafficking (as part of the new National Drugs Strategy 2015-2020, Drug Supply Reduction) continuously evident success. The implementation of successful operations against organized crime groups involved in drug smuggling and the elimination of the heads of criminal groups are just some of the results achieved.

2.1. Drug-related statistics

Data for seizures for 2014 presented (Police and customs administration)

Maximum efforts of the police to prevent the supply of drugs yielded positive results. 717 (555) criminal offenses were realized, including 577 "unauthorized production and distribution of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors" offenses. Those cases involved 714 offenders; 139 criminal cases concerning "enabling the use of narcotic drugs" involved 158. The intensive activities undertaken by the Ministry of Interior resulted in an increase of the number of detected crimes by 29%, in comparison to the previous year.

The crimes were committed by 872 perpetrators, of which 857 were nationals of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and 15 were foreigners (six nationals of R. Albania, three of R. Croatia and R. Bulgaria and one R. Serbia, Turkey and Austria).

The Ministry of Interior seized: 632 kilograms of marijuana, 20.3 kilograms of heroin, 318.28 grams of cocaine, 1.187 trees, 3.816 pieces and 146.81 gram seeds of the plant "cannabis sativa" 5 kilograms and 16 grams of hashish, 1,189 tablets ecstasy, 1 kilogram and 176 grams and 15 tablets of amphetamine, 3.57 grams of methamphetamine and 66 tablets, 13 tablets and 0.71 gram mixture of amphetamine and methamphetamine, 135 milliliters of methadone, 75 pieces of LSD, 20.71 gram pirovaleron, 21 tbl. buprenorphine, tramadol tablets 56, 1.64 g of lidocaine.

Besides the seizures in Tetovo - Gostivar region, over 7,000 plant "cannabis sativa" were seized in this period. In 2014, two new types of drugs were discovered: MDPV methylenedioxypropylvaleron (20.71 gram seized) and 25 C-NBOMe (30 pieces seized)

Seizures by the Customs Administration for the period from 01.01.2014 to 12.12.2014: 4 112.79 grams of heroin, marijuana 91483,86 grams, 20.3 grams of hashish, magic mushrooms psilocin 2.71 grams, and ecstasy 96 pieces.

	Date	Border crossing point	Import /Export	Vehicle where narcotics was hidden	Quantities	Unit	Type	Offenders
1	06.01.2014	Bogorodica	Import	found with passenger, traveling with a bus	1935,00	grams	heroin	1 Albanian citizen
2	09.04.2014	Tabanovce	Export	found with passenger, traveling with a bus	1720,00	grams	marijuana	3 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia citizens
3	10.04.2014	Tabanovce	Export	PMV	21675,00	grams	marijuana	1 Albanian citizen
4	19.04.2014	Tabanovce	Export	PMV	12975,00	grams	marijuana	2 Albanian citizens
5	21.05.2014	Deve Bair	Import	found with passenger, traveling with a PMV	96,00	Tbl.	Ecstasy	2 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia citizens
6	02.06.2014	Blace	Import	PMV	15248,00	grams	marijuana	1 Albanian citizen
7	16.06.2014	Tabanovce	Export	PMV	963,00	grams	marijuana	1 Albanian citizen
8	01.07.2014	Tabanovce	Export	PMV	317,00	grams	marijuana	2 BiH nationals
9	05.07.2014	Tabanovce	Export	PMV	3,60	grams	marijuana	1 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia citizen
10	07.08.2014	Deve Bair	Export	PMV	9,5	grams	marijuana	3 citizens of France
					20,3	grams	hashish	
11	14.08.2014	mobile team		PMV	0,81	grams	heroin	1 Albanian citizen
12	19.09.2014	Tabanovce	Export	PMV	9,94	grams	marijuana	1 Greek citizen
13	30.09.2014	Delcevo	Export	PMV	14050,60	grams	marijuana	2 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia citizens
14	09.10.2014	Blace	Import	PMV	11,09	grams	marijuana	1 US citizen
15	12.10.2014	Tabanovce	Export	found with passenger, traveling with a bus	0,522	grams	marijuana	1 German citizen
					2,71	grams	psilocin - magic	

							mushrooms	
16	10.11.2014	Tabanovce	Export	PMV	13830,00	grams	marijuana	2 Polish nationals
17	14.11.2014	Bogorodica	Import	found with passenger, traveling with a bus	1185,00	grams	heroin	1 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia citizen
18	21.11.2014	Blace	Import	PMV	6114,5	grams	marijuana	2 German citizens
19	26.11.2014	Bogorodica	Import	found with passenger, traveling with a bus	991,98	grams	heroin	1 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia citizen
20	26.11.2014	Tabanovce	Export	found with passenger, traveling with a bus	2903,20	grams	marijuana	1 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia citizen
21	03.12.2014	Tabanovce	Export	found with passenger, traveling with a bus	676,20	grams	marijuana	1 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia citizen
22	05.12.2014	Blato	Import	found with passenger, traveling with taxi	974,94	grams	marijuana	1 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia citizen
23	02.12.2014	Delcevo	Import	PMV	1,77	grams	marijuana	1 Bulgarian citizen

Source: Custom Administration

2.2. Trafficking routes

The Ministry of Interior identified the seized drugs as coming from the Afghanistan – Pakistan – Iran region. Heroin routes leading to Belgium and the Netherlands intersect the country and thus affect the local drug situation.

a. Heroin route

Seizures in the covered period have been reported in connection with the land route, imported from Greece on the border crossing point Bogorodica.

b. Cocaine route

Seizures in the covered period have been reported in connection with the air and land route.

c. Marihuana route

Transport to the destination country is mainly through Albania to the Western border region and then northward to Serbia, border crossing point Tabanovce.

3. Drug Demand Reduction

Although the overall legislation on drugs complies with international standards, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia faces similar challenges as EU countries regarding new psychoactive substances and acts accordingly. On the proposal of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Narcotic Drugs, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia complements the national list of controlled substances for substances which are not covered by the Conventions of the United Nations. Additionally, competent ministries are preparing extensive amendments to the Law on the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The changes to the Law concerning the inclusion of early warning systems (EWS), followed by a temporary, partial or complete ban on new psychoactive substances that appear on the market, are in line with the EU Directive proposal COM (2013) 618 and the proposal for EU legislation on new psychoactive substances (Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on new psychoactive substances).

Secondly, the amendments relate to setting the legal framework for the implementation of the National Drug Strategy 2015-2020, regarding establishing supervisory bodies for the implementation of prevention activities, as well as implementation of activities for the treatment of drug addiction. Furthermore, other issues in this area such as the evaluation of the previous drug strategy and the experience gained through the implementation of legislative acts emphasized the need to further regulate drug use by the Law.

In coordination with the Ministry of Health, a protocol on selective and indicated prevention, a protocol on treatment of minors who experiment with drugs (initial use), and a protocol on drug treatment are being prepared. At the same time, action plans for the implementation of the protocols and clinical pathways (standard operating procedures) are being prepared. The implementation of the new National Drugs Strategy 2015-2020 commenced with activities concerning the section on Drug Demand Reduction.

Completion of the Drugs Strategy 2006-2012 initiated scientific research in the area of drugs: analysis of data (collected for ten years) on deaths related to drugs; analysis of data (collected for ten years) from several data sources, on the use of drugs from the group of the benzodiazepines; review of the treatment of persons in public as well as private institutions, treatment in prisons, treatment with methadone and buprenorphine. These surveys are conducted by the Center for Monitoring Drugs and Drug Addiction, within the sector of controlled substances, Ministry of Health.

Number of Drug Related Deaths (DRD)

In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, two documentation systems for registering deaths exist: The Register of the Ministry of Interior and General Register of mortality of the State Statistical Office.

Deaths related to drug use are one of the epidemiological indicators for assessing the state of the drug, according to the established practice of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction and the adopted EU Directives.

The Center for Monitoring of Drugs and Drug Addiction within the Sector for controlled substances, Ministry of Health, received data from the Institutes of Forensic Medicine in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Skopje, Tetovo, Bitola, Stip, Gostivar). These data refer to cases where an autopsy was performed. It should be borne in mind though, that for some reasons (expensive autopsy procedure, religious reasons, fear to detect drug dealer etc) not all cases of autopsy are reported and therefore the following number is not final.

Total number of DRD in 2014 is 16, including 2 women.

Reason (Cause mortis) death occurred: - 4 cases Canabinoids, Benzodiazepines; 2 cases Canabinoidi; 1 case Canabinoids, Benzodiazepines, Methadone; 1 case Opiates, Benzodiazepines, Methadone; 2 cases Benzodiazepines, Methadone; 1 cases Benzodiazepines, Opiates (heroin); 3 cases Opiates (heroin); 1 case Methadone; 1 case Amphetamine.

II. Co-ordination

Diverse models of multi-sectoral cooperation exist in the host country with the aim of working on activities in the domain of justice, freedom and security (also involving health and reducing inequalities; security, money laundering etc).

The main coordination body covering all aspects connected with narcotic issues is the Governmental Commission - National Commission for Fight Against Illegal Production, Trafficking and Use of Drugs (IMCND), coordinated by the MoH. This body includes representatives of 10 line ministries (i.e. justice, internal affairs, health, local self-government, environment, foreign affairs, education and science, labor and social policy, agriculture, forestry and water economy, finance, the customs administration and agency for youth and sport).

Roles and responsibilities of the IMCND are in particular:

- coordination, planning and monitoring of the implementation of programs in the area of prevention, treatment and suppression of drug abuse at the local level;
- elaboration of the implementation of the National Drug Strategy and Action Plan;
- international cooperation.

In general, working documents for the Commission are prepared by the sector for controlled substances in the Ministry of Health, where one of the departments is the national drug observatory –*National Focal Point (NFP)* – centre for monitoring of drugs and drug addiction, which is the collaborative body of EMCDDA. NFP unites data from all existing data bases and registers: from the Institute for Public Health, Centres for Public Health (10), Clinic for Infectious Diseases, Clinic for Toxicology, Clinic for Nephrology, Psychiatric Hospital "Skopje", Institutes for Forensic medicines (4), Treatment services for IDU's (20), NGOs active in the field of vulnerable population (IDU's) (14) based on 5 epidemiological indicators (prevalence of drug use among general population; problematic drug users; treatment; drug related death; drug related infectious diseases, Ministries of Education, Labor and Social Policy. The main target group is the vulnerable "risk group" population, notably IDU's, people with HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis. NFP is also receiving and elaborating data for supply indicators.

III. International Cooperation

General introduction

- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's National Police has established a good level of cooperation with other national police directorates in neighbouring countries (Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece);
- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has signed MoUs with various countries on fighting organised crime and drug trafficking (i.e. Hungary etc.);
- on a case by case basis, the police successfully cooperated with national police liaison officers from various EU member states, especially Austria, Germany and Italy;
- cooperation also exists through the Interpol and Europol networks;
- border control efforts are being strengthened through the development of partnerships and effective working relationships with organizations such as INTERPOL, SELEC, SEPCA, EUROPOL, EUROJUST, DCAF, UNODC;
- cooperation with the above networks is crucial for effective and coordinated action with the aim of tackling organized crime including for operational activities, due to a highly developed database that allows the identification and targeting of repeat offenders;
- by now this type of data has proven to be able to identify “hot spots” and linked “series of crimes”; supplying information helped identifying preventive measures; evidence linking offenders to crimes;
- good cooperation on common projects continued between the National Focal Point (Sector for controlled substances, Ministry of Health) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) as well as UNODC.

Ongoing operations, bilateral and multilateral projects, agreements and events

Starting in September 2012 – for the first time ever – the Ministries of Justice and Interior of the host country participated together with Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, EUROPOL and EUROJUST in a “Joint Investigation Team” (JIT) focused on disruption of organized crime networks trafficking heroin to Western Europe.

IV. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

Challenges: capacity building (especially in the area of control of “new drugs”);

V. Mini-Dublin Group assessment of needs for external assistance

Assistance in increasing projects aimed at prevention (primary, environmental, indicative and selective) and juvenile consumption, as well as operational support.

In essence, the problems identified call for surveys on poly drug use, its extents, reasons as well as for research in the field of psychoactive drug use and driving.

Montenegro

Report by the Tirana Mini-Dublin Group for the year 2014

March 2015

On 25th of March 2015 the first MDG-Meeting this year was held in the premises of the Austrian Embassy in Podgorica.

Representatives of the following countries and organizations took part in the meeting:

EU-Delegation Podgorica, Embassies of Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France (represented by the Police Liaison Officer in Belgrade), Germany, Hungary, Italy, Rumania, Slovenia and UK.

As in the MDG-meetings before, Mr. Miodrag LAKOVIC as Head of the Counter Drug Division in the Montenegrin Police Directorate, and his deputy, Mr. Dejan KNEZEVIC gave an overview of the drug offences in Montenegro, the newest developments and modi operandi in this field and finally statistic data on seizures of drugs.

1. General situation in the country

Smuggling and consumption of modified marihuana (Skunk) still dominates the drug related offences in Montenegro. The country of origin of “Skunk” is Albania, where Albanian organized crime groups distribute this modified marihuana to neighboring countries and also through Montenegro. In the past, different Montenegrin groups were involved in the smuggling of “Skunk”.

2. Statistical Data 2014

During 2014, **179** felonies regarding intoxicating drugs have been discovered in Montenegro.

The prosecutor in charge received **149 criminal charges** against **187 persons**.

During **2014, 153 misdemeanour charges have been brought forward against 153 persons** for committing 153 offences on grounds of Article 52 Paragraph 1 Point 5 regarding Article 45 Paragraph 1 of the Law on Combating the Abuse of intoxicating Substances. The largest number of charges has been brought forward in the municipalities of the group: Bar, Budva, Ulcinj (84 charges against 84 individuals).

During the reporting year, **1 011 449,57²** grams of intoxicating drugs have been found and seized in **414** individual impoundments. The largest drug quantity has been seized in the area of jurisdiction of the Drug Combating Unit Podgorica: **319001,90 grams**. The smallest drug quantity has been seized in the area of jurisdiction of the Drug Combating Units of Berane, Bijelo Polje and Pljevlja: **60261, 10 grams**.

² Gross weight.

Type and Quantity of the Seized Drugs (2013– 2014)

TYPE OF DRUG	2013	2014
-MARIHUANA	1338380,84 g	776211, 33 g
-HEROIN	7175,77g	2433, 11 g
-COCAINE	80,98 g	227894, 10 g
-SYNTHETIC DRUGS	142,64 g	544,74
-SUBOXON	387 pieces	16, 38 g
- HASHISH		
-FLORMIDAL	1,00 g	2, 5 g
- DORMICUM		4313, 58 g
- FENACETIN		4, 2 g
		29, 63 g
TOTAL	1 345 781,23 g	1 011 449, 57 g

Compared to the year 2013, **the number of registered felonies increased by 4,06 %**, whereas the **number of individuals charged increased by 5,64 %**. The analysis of seized drugs' structure points to a large quantity of cocaine seized, as well as the growth in synthetic drugs' quantity by **281,89 %**.

3. Concrete measures

The quantity of impounded drugs has shown a growth trend in Montenegro from 2010 till 2013. There have been no significant discrepancies during the year 2014, as one ton and 11 kilos of drugs have been seized, whereas the number of individual drug seizures (414) increased by 73 % compared to year 2013. One of the reasons is this year's focus of departmental activities toward diminishing the drugs availability on the illegal 'street' market, confirmed by the increase in the number of processed and realised cases on the national level.

Three police actions have been performed on the national level:

The 'Kvart' police action was realised in June 2014. It started in 2013 in cooperation with the Senior State Prosecutor. The case was directed at a criminal group dealing with smuggling and street distribution of heroin, 'Suboxon' pills and marihuana on the territory of Podgorica for a longer period of time. Ten charges were brought. During this month-long action the following items were seized: approx. 560 g of heroin, 2 kg of skunk, more than 300 'Suboxon' pills, around 900 grams of the mixture for increasing drug-weight, two pistols, several pieces of amunition, several motor vehicles and cell phones.

The 'Riviera' police action of seven months' duration, led in cooperation with the Chief District Prosecutor in Podgorica, was realised in December 2014. The aim of 'Riviera' was to repress the street trade of amphetamine and ecstasy in the coastal municipalities. The result of the police action was the apprehension and criminal charges for street sale of drugs **against 8 persons. 30 g of amphetamine, 324 ecstasy pills and approx. 150 g of marihuana have been seized.**

The case 'Klok', which has been running for seven months in cooperation with the Chief District Prosecutor in Bijelo Polje, resulted in a police action on **December 25, 2014.** 29,2 kg of skunk, 553,6 gr of heroin, two grams of cocaine and approximately one kilo of the mixture for increasing drug-weight have been seized during the implementation.

21 persons have been charged, eight of which for the criminal act of criminal conspiracy.

The intense cooperation with the international partners has continued in 2014, through the exchange of operative information, conducting of mutual investigations and realising cases and police actions aimed at discovering and processing criminal groups on the national and international level. Over 40 operative meetings were organised at home and abroad with the representatives of the police forces of: The Kingdom of Holland, the UK Agency SOCA, Republic of Croatia, The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Albania, Republic of Slovenia, The Kingdom of Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, Australia, South African Republic, as well with the representatives of EUROPOL, DEA Office in Rome nad the SELEC Centre from Bucharest.

The most significant action in 2014 under the operative name 'OSA' was realised through the initiative and cooperation with the Special Operations Division DEA, investigating a criminal organisation smuggling weapons on the Balkan Peninsula. The officers of the Drug Combating Department carried out covert surveillance and managed to locate two Rumanian and one Italian citizen, intricated in carrying out this criminal activity. They have been apprehended in Podgorica on December 15, 2014.

The participation of the Drug Combating Department is of great significance for the work of the EUROPOL Group 'Mozzarella', founded on December 7, 2011 with the aim of combating the organised criminal groups from Western Balkan countries smuggling cocaine from South America to Europe.

During the previous group meeting which took place in the Netherlands on June 6, 2014, a report has been issued stating that the Montenegrin results so far are very good and expressing content with the previous cooperation, exchange mode and the quality of the delivered data.

Within the scope of the case 'Bijela Kugla = White Ball' in the Netherlands on December 1, 2013, 400 kilos of cocaine have been seized, based on data delivered by the Montenegrin Police Administration.

The officers of the Drug Combating Department dealt with six cases in cooperation with the international services during 2014. The mutual investigations were filed under the following operative names: 'Albatros', 'Container', 'Kocka = Dice', 'Šetač = Walker', 'Skipper' and "Subra". There is also a significant number of relevant cases in the investigative phase, which we conduct via daily intensive data exchange with the liaison officers of the police forces of the following countries: Great Britain (NCA), The Kingdom of Holland, Australia and USA (DEA).

There has been an increase in the number of mutual investigations, since four of such have been implemented during 2013.

The previous year was marked by the impoundment of large quantities of cocaine. The officers of the Customs Administration in the Port of Bar discovered a **large amount of cocaine** in a container arriving from Ecuador, designated for an Albanian company. On June 04, 2014, the officers of the Customs Branch in the Bar Free Zone performed the control of the container for bananas, which was determined for detailed surveillance by use of risk analysis. The container has been scanned first. The officers of the Department for Combating Smuggling of the Customs Administration subsequently opened the container. With special drug-detecting tools, a specially crafted bunker containing **223 hidden packages of cocaine** has been discovered at the bottom of the container for bananas. **The market value of 227,60 kilos of cocaine** amounts to more than 12,5 million euro.

The Customs Administration informed the Police Administration, which undertook further measures and actions in the respective area of authority, along with the responsible Prosecutor's Office. The case 'Container' has been handled in cooperation with the international partners. The intelligence gathered revealed no Montenegrin citizens implicated in the cocaine smuggling. The last received DEA report mentions the implication of two Albanians and one citizen of Kosovo. The cocaine was destined for the EU market.

4. Financial investigations

Legal procedures regarding the confiscation of property (an apartment at the coast and three parcels of total surface 3.030 m²) against two persons convicted for criminal organisation and illegal production, possession and distribution of intoxicating drugs are pending before the High Court in Podgorica. The lawsuit has been conducted by the Drug Combating Department in cooperation with the responsible Prosecution Department.

Serbia
Report by the Belgrade Mini-Dublin Group for the year 2014

Due to previously scheduled duty trips of Mr. Ivan Brandic, the only authorized contact point for the Mini Dublin Group Members in the Serbian Ministry of Interior, was not able to provide the required data in regard to the annual statistics before 28.04.2015. However, this should not be mistaken as a sign of lack of cooperation. To the contrary, the contact person of the Mini Dublin group, Mr Ivan Brandic, Head of Department for Drug Smuggling Suppression, of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior, is in permanent operational cooperation with the respective police attachés regarding operational cooperation, which was the immediate reason for not meeting the Mini Dublin group in time.

General situation in the country

According to the information available to the Embassies of the Mini Dublin group members, the situation in the country remained broadly unchanged compared to the previous report. The apprehension of big quantities of heroin on the border between Serbia and Croatia shows that the Balkan route continues to be an important smuggling route for narcotics, but gives also evidence on the successful fight against the smugglers.

As for the fight against cocaine smuggling, the previous year has brought a major success with the arrest of Darko Saric, who is suspected to be the head of a criminal group involved in major quantities of cocaine smuggling from Latin America to Europe. The trial against Saric and 9 of his alleged accomplices for charges of cocaine smuggling takes place in Belgrade and has continued on 22 April. The trial on charges for money laundering is on hold due to the complexity of the case, according to the Judge.

In close cooperation with the Police and Justice Authorities of Montenegro several group members have been successfully prosecuted in Serbia and Montenegro.

On 20 February 2015, an alleged member of another cocaine smuggling group was shot dead in Belgrade, showing that other Latin American-Balkan groups are still active also in Serbia.

International cooperation & operations

Besides the ongoing operational cooperation with the member countries of the Mini Dublin group, which remains to be excellent and on a high level, one can note big progress in the cooperation with Kosovo, which has been practically inexistent so far. As a “collateral result” of the ongoing dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, the police directors of the Serbian and the Kosovar police, Mr Milorad Veljovic and Spend Madjuni, met on 10 March 2015 for the first time to discuss possibilities of direct cooperation in order to fight against human trafficking and other criminal activities crossing the so-called ABL (border line) between Serbia and Kosovo.

In general it has to be underlined, that the competent Serbian authorities have used the previous year in a proactive way in order to strengthen and increase international cooperation. The fruits of this efforts will be in the next report.
